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**A Review of Progress in Hunger Reduction: 1990-2003
- Lessons, Challenges and the Way Forward -**

Tugrul Temel

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Agricultural and Development Economics Division
Food Security and Agricultural Projects Analysis Service, Rome, Italy
tugrul.temel@fao.org

Abstract

This study reviews the progress in hunger reduction that has been achieved over the period 1990-2003. Two indicators are used to assess the progress: absolute number of undernourished people and proportion of undernourished people. The World Food Summit sets the hunger target as reducing the absolute number, while the Millennium Development Goal 1 sets it to reducing the proportion of undernourished people to half its level in 1990-92 by 2015. The key finding is that, irrespective of the above indicators, progress has been slow and uneven across regions. In particular, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia stand alone as critical regions where there is a strong need to mobilize resources to promote agricultural production, market developments, and reduce income inequality.

Key words: Poverty, food security, hunger, World Food Summit plan of action, Millennium Development Goals

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1. Introduction

This study assesses the progress in hunger reduction that has been achieved over the period of 1990-2003, derives lessons from the past developments in undernourishment,¹ identifies challenges to be addressed, and presents an agenda for enhancing food security. Two indicators are used in the assessment: absolute number of undernourished people and proportion of undernourished people. The 1996 World Food Summit (WFS) sets the hunger target as reducing the absolute number of undernourished to half its 1990-92 level, whereas the Millennium Development Goal 1 (henceforth MDG) sets it to reducing the proportion of undernourished to half its 1990-92 level by 2015. The WFS sets a more ambitious target compared to the MDG target. The current study first describes trends at the global and regional levels, then draws lessons from the past developments and next identifies key challenges that warrant further attention. The final section concludes the study with the way forward.

2. Progress in hunger reduction

The key observation is that progress has been very slow in global hunger reduction and uneven across regions. Most of the reduction achieved in the number of undernourished people over the last decade originates from several countries, including China, Vietnam, Peru, and Ghana.

At the global level

Although global food production significantly increased during the 1990-92/2001-03 period, the absolute number of hungry people on a regular basis still remains stubbornly high due mostly to deep poverty and low purchasing power in large parts of the world. Daily per capita calorie supply in the developing world increased from about 2,518 to about 2,610 during the period concerned (Table 1). However, as of 2001-03, of 854 million undernourished across the globe, 820 million were residing in developing countries and 25 million in transition countries. Over the last decade, hunger declined in the developing world by only 3 million, far less than the reduction of approximately 206 million expected in 2001-03 to be on track as to the WFS target. To meet the WFS target, about 5% reduction is required in the number of hungry people each year (Table 2). With respect to the proportion of undernourished, the developing world has achieved modest reduction from 20% to 17% during the last decade. An annual 4% reduction is needed to reach the MDG target by 2015 (Table 3).

At the regional level

Asia and the Pacific experienced a significant increase in its food availability, which has been followed by a large reduction in the number of undernourished people despite rising populations in the region. Daily calorie supply per person jumped from 2,396 in 1990-92 to 2,503 in 2001-03 (Table 1), which can largely be attributed to the increase in cereal

¹ The terms “hunger” and “undernourishment” are interchangeably used throughout the study.

imports because of the declining international prices of cereal crops and more stable world rice markets, including Thailand and Viet Nam. The resulting decline in the number of hungry people, especially in China, Vietnam and Thailand, has been substantial. If the current trends continue, Vietnam and Myanmar will meet the WFS target. The situation in China, Indonesia and Thailand will improve but that improvement is likely to be short of the target if current trends continue in the next 13 years. In India and the Philippines, however, efforts are to be scaled up considerably to reach the WFS target. The region needs an annual 5% reduction in the number of hungry people to reach the WFS target (Table 2).

A fairly large number of countries in Asia and the Pacific suffer from poor access to food due to low per capita incomes and highly skewed income distribution. Thailand, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, the Philippines and India among others increased their food production but faced 20% or higher rate of prevalence in 2001-03. Democratic People's Republic of Korea is by far the most vulnerable to food insecurity, where the prevalence jumped from 18% to 35% during the last decade. The outlook is also uncertain for Lao, Cambodia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, where under-nourishment rates vary between 20% and 35%. With respect to the proportion of undernourished people, Asia and the Pacific experienced considerable reduction, with a decline from 20% in 1990-92 to 16% in 2001-03 (Table 3).

Latin America and the Caribbean experienced a modest increase in its food availability, reflected by an increase from 2,592 in 1990-92 to 2,720 calories per day per person in 2001-03 (Table 1). Reduction in the number and the proportion of hungry people does not reflect the modest progress in food availability due to highly skewed income distribution and low per capita incomes within individual countries. The number declined by only 7 million, from 59 million in 1990-92 to 52 million in 2001-03, and an annual reduction of about 4% is required to reach the WFS target by 2015. Furthermore, the region witnessed a decline in the proportion of undernourished from 13% to 10% during the last decade and an annual 3% reduction is required to reach the MDG target (Table 3).

Sub-Saharan Africa faced setbacks in the battle against hunger. Food availability slightly improved during the last decade, up from 2,123 calories in 1990-92 to 2,184 calories per capita in 2001-03. On the basis of the internationally set minimum daily intake of 1,824 calories per capita, the region as a whole seemed to have enough food to support its population (Table 1), but a significant number of countries still ended up receiving external food assistance, including Somalia, Malawi, Niger, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. Across the region, the absolute number of undernourished people increased about 22% over the last decade, from 169 million in 1990-92 to 206 million in 2001-03.² An annual 6% reduction in the number of hungry people is required to meet the WFS target (Table 2). Despite the overall negative trend, of the 39 countries examined, Ghana has already achieved the WFS target and another 13 countries reduced hungry at varying amounts. The proportion of undernourished in Africa declined from 35% to 32% during the last decade due to rising populations across the region. Compared to other regions, Africa has

² Ethiopia and Eritrea were excluded due to the lack of data for 1990-92. Available data start from 1993-95 in which Eritrea had 2.2 million and Ethiopia 38.2 million hungry people. The numbers changed to 2.9 million and 31.5 million by 2001-03, respectively.

the highest prevalence and needs an annual reduction of about 5% to meet the MDG target (Table 3).

Near East and North Africa is the least food insecure region in the developing world. It has enough food to feed its population, with daily supply of 3,074 calories per capita in 2001-03 (Table 1). However, the highly skewed income distribution within countries impedes access to this abundant food. As a result, the number of hungry people increased from 25 million in 1990-92 to 38 million in 2001-03 - a 50% rise. The region needs an annual 8% reduction to reach the WFS target by 2015 (Table 2).

Among the 14 countries examined, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates were on-track, while Syria and Egypt showed moderate progress with respect to both the WFS and MDG targets. In the remaining 10 countries, the food security situation got worse (Table 3). The situation in Yemen needs special attention, as during the last decade the number of hungry people increased by almost 70% and the prevalence increased from 34% to 37% of the population. Yemen has also been hit by 54% increase in its population that reached at 19 million in 2001-03.

Transition countries witnessed a 5% increase in its food availability, up from 2,808 in 1990-92 to 2,948 calories per person in 2001-03, which is far above the developing world average of 2,610 calories per person (Table 1). This suggests that food availability has not been a problem in the region, but rising income inequality and low incomes hamper access to food available. Poverty, especially in rural areas, is a major setback facing the region. According to the World Bank data, the number of people with less than \$1 a day increased from 2 million in 1990 to 10 million by 2002. Although poverty is much lower than that in most other developing regions, a number of countries had exceptionally high rates; for example, 22% in Moldova and 19% in Uzbekistan.

The food security situation in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is especially critical. Tajikistan had a very low calorie supply in 2001-03 and its prevalence of undernourishment increased from 22% in 1993-95 to 61% in 2001-03. In Uzbekistan, however, the problem is not food availability but poor access to the existing food. The number of hungry people in the country more than doubled during the last 10 years and the prevalence jumped from 8% to 26% in 2001-03.

3. Lessons learnt

The review at the national level reflects three groups of countries: (i) countries on-track toward the WFS target, i.e., a significant dent has been made in reducing the number of undernourished people; (ii) countries in progress toward the WFS target, i.e., the number of undernourished is in decline; and (iii) countries facing setbacks in the progress toward the WFS target, i.e., the number of undernourished remains unchanged or is increasing. The following are the key policy lessons learned from past experiences of the three groups of countries.

*Peace, stability and good governance are necessary for economic growth.*³ One of the major lessons from the last decade was that peace, economic and political stability, and good governance have been critical in creating favorable policy environments for growth and food security. Peru's superior progress, for example, in reducing hunger followed from macro-economic reforms of the early 1990s and subsequent political stability. Inflation declined tremendously and per capita GDP significantly grew from 2,040 USD in 1990 to 2,231 USD in 2003. From the early 1990s to the early 2000s, following reforms of land transaction and entitlement procedures, agriculture value added per worker increased by 4% annually (reached at 1,734 USD in 2001-03); agricultural production, by 5%; and the share of agriculture in the economy, by 11% in 2001-03. These economic gains paved the way for synergies between food security stakeholders and boosted links between the agriculture, environment and health sectors to ensure adequate food supplies.

Ghana is another success model where the macro-economic reforms of the late 1980s and the subsequent improvement in agricultural performance paved the way for extraordinary reduction in hunger. The agricultural sector was reformed, with the privatization of state farms, the reduction of subsidies on production inputs and the removal of commodity price controls. The benefits of these reforms emerged only after the mid-1990s, with an average 5% growth of agricultural value added. Improvement in food security was immediate as more than two-thirds of the population was making living out of agricultural activities.

In Mozambique, political stability has played a major role in revitalizing the economy, and the launching of liberalization policies in the early 1990s fostered macro-economic stability. Poverty declined and food security showed progress, thanks to 62% growth in per capita income from 149 \$ in 1990-92 to 243 \$ in 2001-03. The success came in spite of low income. Mozambique's high dependence on aid inflows for most of their domestic investment and regional political polarization and inequalities, however, risk the future of food security.

Sustainable food security requires long term economic growth. Accelerated economic growth sustained over a long period of time is a must for success in hunger reduction. A case study on Chile, by the World Bank, for instance, showed that, following the adoption and implementation of "growth with equity strategy", the incidence of poverty in the country was reduced from 40% in 1990 to 20% in 2000, and, the number of undernourished from 1.1 million to 0.6 million during the same period. As a consequence of high income growth and active redistributive policies, extreme income disparity between the top 20% and the lowest 20% of the population was also reduced nearly by one-half. China's substantial success was also a result of rapid GDP growth of 9.4% per year during 1979-2003, triggered not only by the structural changes that included shifts from central planning to market based economic system but also by a broad economic and social development strategy with specific programmes aimed at improving the wellbeing

³ Governance, a composite index developed by the World Bank, measures the quality of contract enforcement, the competence of the bureaucracy, the quality of public service delivery, the extent of political, civil and human rights, the likelihood of crimes and violence.

of the poor. In particular, in the rural areas of the country, where the majority of the poor and undernourished lived, fast growth was realized with institutional reforms and changes in landholding, production, distribution and procurement prices.

Improved safety nets and public service institutions enhance access to food. The world has been successful in raising food production over the last decade but production gains did not automatically translate into comparable reduction in hungry due mainly to wide income disparity among income groups within countries, and the poor and food insecure could not necessarily access and afford the food available. Successful countries have made a dent in hunger by improving their public services (health, education and environment) and safety nets. Viet Nam's success, for example, can largely be attributed to improvements in public service institutions and successful implementation of structural policy reforms that led to huge increases in rice exports. Brazil, too, has been successful, with the implementation of programs such as the Zero-Hunger program in 2002 and the safety net program "Bolsa Familia" in 2003. Peru's social safety net programs were implemented in the wake of economic shocks in the early 1990s. National poverty reduction efforts gained momentum after the launching of economic stabilization and structural reform program in 1993. More resources were devoted to pro-poor programs, with nearly doubled spending on poverty reduction programs between 1994 and 1997. In 1997 and 1998 Peru allocated 20% of its public expenditures to basic social services and legal reforms were instituted to strengthen basic education and health care and food security for children and other groups at risk.

Investment in agriculture and rural development is essential for food security. Three fourths of the poor live in rural areas and derive the basis for their livelihoods from agriculture or from rural activities which depend on the agricultural sector. Therefore, investment in agriculture and rural development has been the key in successful countries. In China, for example, a large rise in domestic food production has been driven by investments in irrigation, land reclamation and its road network, the development of high-yielding seed varieties and improved farming practices, the improvement in farmers' production incentives and efforts to expand export-oriented manufacturing in urban centers. At present, the government is addressing food insecurity through investments in infrastructure; the provision of social protection to unemployed former state-sector workers, and a poverty reduction strategy for rural areas.

Economic growth that originates in agriculture and rural sectors plays a critical role in enhancing food security. Evidence also reveals that in countries where agriculture remains an important sector of the economy and where agriculture growth was higher, reduction in poverty and hunger was more evident. In China, for instance, once the poverty reduction effects of the early rural reforms were realized, overall poverty reduction slowed down and even reversed in some years coinciding with the stagnation in the rural economy, and the growth of per capita income drastically declined from 12 percent in the period 1978-85 to 2 percent in 1986 -93 [32]. To lift up the rural people who failed to take advantage of the earlier growth effects, the Government initiated in 1994 the "National Poverty Reduction Plan", focussing on officially designated "poor" counties. Agricultural GDP growth in those counties averaged 7.5% per year, compared to the national average of 7%

[32]. Similarly, in India the prevalence of hunger decreased sharply during the 1980s as a consequence of growth of the agricultural sector, though the national economy relatively stagnated. In the second half of the 1990s, with the slow down of agricultural growth, hunger reduction slowed down, despite the overall growth in GDP was taking off.

Trade has consistently been an engine of growth. Hence, significant improvement in food security should be expected if the developing world addresses its supply constraints. The review indicates that successful countries increasingly opened up their economies during the last decade, reflected by their large trade share of GDP. Increasing exports improved foreign currency reserves and created resources for food imports in difficult times. With the removal of barriers to trade and the creation of an open rules-based global trading system, trade's contribution to hunger reduction will even be larger than it is now. In order for countries facing setbacks in hunger reduction to take advantage of the open trading system, supply constraints should be addressed that include lack of resources for technology transfer, poor trade capacity and competitiveness. External assistance to low-income resource poor countries in this respect would greatly help improve their food security situation.

4. Challenges ahead

Countries have their own specific challenges, but some broad regional challenges indicate the key areas to be addressed to combat hunger and poverty.

Asia and the Pacific

Natural resources management needs to be improved further in the face of increasing soil nutrient depletion, soil erosion and environmental degradation. There are also growing sustainability problems in many intensive production systems due to excessive use of cheap, subsidized nitrogen fertilizer. Increasing demand for water, 90% of which is presently consumed in agriculture, and declining investment in agricultural research further risk the future potential for food production.

The region has enough food but access to it is hampered by highly skewed income distribution, reflected by Gini coefficient of 38%. Similarly, increased food production or imports will not ensure food security in South Asia and East Asia, where poverty is deep and widespread. In India, for example, there is enough food, yet the number of undernourished is high because of low purchasing power.

During the last decade Asia severely suffered from natural disasters, while encountering modest setbacks from HIV/AIDS and conflicts. With thousands of lives lost in December 2004, the Asian Tsunami also revealed major gaps in national and regional emergency preparedness. In Bangladesh about 10 million people live in close proximity to the major rivers in very erosion- and flood-prone conditions. Regarding infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS rates in Asia are well below those of Africa, and the differences are even more marked when population levels of Asian countries are taken into account. However, countries should strengthen their disease monitoring and prevention systems. In large

countries like Indonesia, China and India, high rates approaching 3% are concentrated in specific locations, and Cambodia has already reached the highest infection rate of 3%.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The region has enough food to feed its population; yet, due to highly skewed income distribution and widespread poverty, the poor cannot obtain enough to eat. Income inequality is extreme, with a Gini coefficient of 51%, the highest compared to other regions in the developing world. Economic growth challenges remain particularly in Central American and some Caribbean countries.

Urban poverty is on the rise, which induces nutrition and health problems different from those facing rural areas. Similar to higher income industrialized countries, urban food security problems largely relate to malnutrition. Overcrowding and inadequate access to basic services represent other aspects of urban food insecurity problems. Most recent data indicate that only 68% of urban population in the region have access to clean water and 43% have waste discharge services.

Frequent natural shocks, including El Nino and heavy floods, caused large damages, especially in some of the region's highly vulnerable, low income countries. For example, El Nino brought drought to Haiti and the Dominican Republic and heavy floods to Ecuador and Peru in 1997 and 1998. Several hurricanes destroyed crops and infrastructure and led to the deterioration of food production and its wide distribution in many countries in 1998.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Substantial investment is required in natural resources management, agricultural and rural development. Accounting for a large majority of undernourished people in Africa, small farmers face extreme soil nutrient depletion, unreliable water supply, poor access to fertilizer and new technologies [18, 21]. Especially in tropical parts of Africa, the Sahel and the dry sub-humid and semiarid tropics and subtropics, inadequate investment impedes food production potentials. The situation may get worse unless investments are made in soil conservation, water quality, agro-forestry, and technology diffusion. Farm production in Africa also suffers from low mechanization, with 1.2 tractors per 1000 hectares land, several-fold less than 12.5 for Latin America and 8.6 for Asia.

Agricultural input and output markets in many countries in Africa are either not in place or not working efficiently [21]. There is the need for investment in rural transport, storage and energy infrastructure, provision of affordable agricultural credit, and access to weather and price information. A good sign in this respect is that rural markets for seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs gradually emerge through partnerships among communities, traders and companies. For example, in rural areas of Malawi, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Kenya, poor farmers' access to knowledge intensive inputs are improving.

During the last decade, Sub-Saharan Africa experienced the largest increase in poverty. Based on "the 1\$ per day indicator", the poverty increased from 227 million in 1990 to

303 million in 2002 [26]. By 2015 it is projected to reach 336 million or 38.4% of the projected population. This means that the poverty in Africa will surpass that in South Asia, which has had the largest number of poor people throughout the past two decades [21, 23]. With Gini coefficient of 48%, the region has the second highest income inequality in the world [24].

HIV/AIDS is rampant and spreading in Africa. It has a devastating effect on smallholder agriculture, reducing crop diversity, area cropped, labor-intensive activities and increasing the selling of agricultural assets [21]. It is estimated that HIV/AIDS reduces economic growth by 2-4%. Armed conflicts continue to flare up and create food emergencies in countries, including Angola, Burundi, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Sierra Leone [23].

Near East and North Africa

Investment in rural infrastructure should be scaled up in Near East and North Africa. With very little access to roads, safe water, sanitation, and with a shortage of schools and clinics, poor rural people miss opportunities to improve their human capital and are unable to engage in rewarding economic activities. Poverty continues to be mainly a rural phenomenon; 60-70% of the poor lives in rural areas and, depending on the poverty line used, about 40-60% of the rural population is considered poor. Political instability, poor governance, and serious gender inequalities further hamper the prospects for growth and food security.

The region suffers from low agricultural productivity and poor integration of rural people in the rest of the economy. The problem is compounded by a fragile land base and declining soil fertility, limited water resources, unequal land distribution and insecurity of land tenure, and low public-sector investment in rural infrastructure. Volatile climate and rainfall add to these setbacks. Most agricultural land is irrigated, and drought often results in severe production shortfalls compared to potential production in the region.

Most countries in the region are dependent on food imports. Half of their staple food is imported, and hence the capacity to generate foreign exchange would be the key for future food security. Oil is the main source of foreign exchange inflow, making food security very sensitive to changes in the global oil market.

Transition countries

War, political and economic instability, prolonged drought, poor rural infrastructure, lack of effective agricultural and food policies, breakdown of social safety nets and poverty exacerbate food insecurity in the transition region. Rising income inequality is another setback facing the region. Unemployment in the CIS countries, even in urban areas, remains high and enhancing a stable and supportive policy environment for employment generation has been very difficult. The prevalence of poverty substantially increased in many countries, especially in those countries that still implement inadequate safety net programs of the 1990s.

5. Conclusions and the way forward

It is easily within the capacity of the global society to eradicate hunger and poverty. Tackling problems of hunger and low growth calls for a twin-track approach that, on the one hand, promotes private investment through a favourable policy environment to accelerate overall economic growth and, on the other, focuses on the needs of the poor not only on their immediate nutritional needs but also on programmes and projects aimed at enhancing the productivity and income of small farmers. To date, lessons learnt from past experience in combating hunger suggest that progress is unavoidable if governments in collaboration with the international development community take actions on the following issues.

Experiences of countries that were on-track in terms of hunger targets suggest that peace, stability, a committed political leadership, effective governance, and low credit risks all facilitate the creation of favourable policy environments that are necessary for growth. In their absence, public investment to develop institutions and physical infrastructure dwindles and the existing resources are wasted in unproductive activities, while the private sector both domestic and foreign is unwilling to undertake investment particularly of a long-term nature.

Actual public expenditures for agriculture and rural development in the developing world should be scaled up. About three fourths of the poor in developing countries live in rural areas and make living out of agriculture directly or indirectly. Therefore, economic growth that originates in agriculture and rural economy can have a particularly strong impact on poverty and hunger reduction. Especially critical is to invest in market infrastructure, institutions and agricultural research in order to stimulate private investment, agricultural production and resource conservation.

Productivity improvement is critical in small-holder agriculture that is severed by water and soil pollution, land erosion, and labor scarcity. The strategy to achieve productivity-induced agricultural growth should aim to promote sustainable use of natural resources, rural infrastructure, and the functioning of markets.

Gaps in basic technology infrastructure, seed and input markets, and extension systems hamper smallholders' access to technologies. Biotechnologies, for example, can potentially contribute to fulfilling some production needs and to the need for improving the nutritional content of crops and livestock products. But, currently, most countries do not have the necessary institutional and physical basis to provide adequate safeguards for biotechnology development and application. Public action is needed to create effective demand for research and develop ways to access to these technologies.

Trade offers great opportunities for the poor and food insecure. The Doha development agenda explicitly recognizes this by granting developing countries special and differential treatment. However, in the absence of basic market infrastructure, technology, institutions and domestic policy reforms, trade liberalization will undermine the agricultural sector with long term negative consequences for poverty and food security. Developing country

supply-constraints will also undermine agriculture particularly in markets where access depends on increasingly strict sanitary and phytosanitary standards. To overcome these possible setbacks, low income countries should be granted more external assistance to overcome their supply-side production barriers. This is a viable option in view of the continuing distortions on world markets.

Effectiveness and efficiency of Official development assistance (ODA) should be improved with home-grown appropriate development policies, reforms and implementation strategies, as nationally designed and owned strategies reflect the specific needs and priorities of the country and give the sense of country ownership. On the other hand, ODA needs to be substantially increased at least until 2010 to support the fight against hunger, particularly in low-income countries.

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Table 1: Daily energy supply (kcal/day/person), average by region

	1990-92	2001-03	Minimum DES required	Percentage change (%): 1990-92 to 2001-03
DEVELOPING WORLD	2518	2610	1850	4.1
Asia and the Pacific	2396	2503	1838	4.5
Latin America & Caribbean	2592	2720	1868	4.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	2123	2184	1824	2.9
Near East and North Africa	2962	3074	1888	3.8
Transition countries (*)	2808	2948	1974	5.0

Source: DES from FAO and minimum DES required are from WHO. (*) The initial period is 1993-95

Table 2: Number of undernourished people (mil)

	# of undernourished		WFS	Net	WFS	Distance to WFS	Ave. annual	Current
	1990-92	2001-03	ratio(2)	change(3)	target(4)	target (5)	rate of change	Status
DEVELOPING WORLD	823.19	820.19	0.99	-3.0	411.6	-408.6	-5.2	Progressing
ASIA – PACIFIC	569.74	523.99	0.92	-45.7	284.9	-239.1	-4.6	Progressing
East Asia, incl. China	198.68	159.51	0.80	-39.2	99.3	-60.2	-3.6	Progressing
East Asia, excl China	5.1318	9.4612	1.84	4.3	2.6	-6.9	-9.6	Setback
Southeast Asia	80.02	65.27	0.82	-14.8	40.0	-25.3	-3.7	Progressing
South Asia, incl. India	290.40	298.50	1.03	8.1	145.2	-153.3	-5.4	Setback
South Asia, excl. India	75.5647	86.5146	1.14	10.9	37.8	-48.7	-6.2	Setback
LATIN AMERICA-CARIBBEAN	59.35	52.43	0.88	-6.9	29.7	-22.8	-4.3	Progressing
North America	4.63	5.07	1.10	0.4	2.3	-2.8	-5.9	Setback
Central America	5.02	7.37	1.47	2.3	2.5	-4.9	-8.0	Setback
The Caribbean	7.72	6.74	0.87	-1.0	3.9	-2.9	-4.2	Progressing
South America	41.99	33.25	0.79	-8.7	21.0	-12.3	-3.5	Progressing
NEAR EAST NORTH AFRICA	25.03	37.56	1.50	12.5	12.5	-25.0	-8.1	Setback
Near East	19.63	31.58	1.61	11.9	9.8	-21.8	-8.6	Setback
North Africa	5.40	5.99	1.11	0.6	2.7	-3.3	-5.9	Setback
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	168.98	206.18	1.22	37.2	91.8	-114.4	-6.0	Setback
Central Africa	22.66	46.79	2.06	24.1	11.3	-35.5	-10.3	Setback
East Africa	75.08	86.91	1.16	11.8	37.5	-49.4	-6.3	Setback
Southern Africa	34.06	35.99	1.06	1.9	17.0	-19.0	-5.6	Setback
West Africa, incl Nigeria	37.18	36.49	0.98	-0.7	18.6	-17.9	-5.1	Progressing
West Africa, excl Nigeria	25.3947	25.0122	0.98	-0.4	12.7	-12.3	-5.1	Progressing
TRANSITION COUNTRIES (1)	23.43	24.72	1.06	1.3	11.7	-13.0	-5.6	Setback
CIS	19.15	20.76	1.08	1.6	9.6	-11.2	-5.8	Setback
Baltic States	0.37	0.13	0.36	-0.2	0.2	0.1	2.5	On-track
Eastern Europe	3.92	3.83	0.98	-0.1	2.0	-1.9	-5.0	Progressing

(1) The initial period is 1993-95

(2) WFS ratio = (the number of undernourished in 2001-03 divided by the number in 1990-92)

(3) Net change = (the number of undernourished in 2001-03 minus the number in 1990-92)

(4) WFS target = (number of undernourished 1990-92 divided by 2)

(5) Distance to WFS target = (Net change minus WFS target)

Table 3: Proportion of undernourished people (%)

	% of undernourished		MDG	Net	MDG	Distance to MDG	Ave. annual	Current
	1990-92	2001-03	ratio(2)	change(3)	target(4)	target (5)	rate of change	Status
DEVELOPING WORLD	20	17	0.83	-3	10	-7.0	-4.0	Progressing
ASIA – PACIFIC	20	16	0.79	-4	10	-6.0	-3.6	Progressing
East Asia, incl. China	16	12	0.73	-4	8	-4.0	-3.1	On-track
East Asia, excl China	8	13	1.63	5	4	-9.0	-8.7	Setback
Southeast Asia	18	12	0.68	-6	9	-3.0	-2.2	On-track
South Asia, incl. India	26	22	0.83	-4	13	-9.0	-4.0	Progressing
South Asia, excl. India	29	26	0.90	-3	14.5	-11.5	-4.4	Progressing
LATIN AMERICA- CARIBBEAN	13	10	0.74	-3	6.5	-3.5	-3.3	On-track
North America	5	5	0.91	0	2.5	-2.5	-5.2	Progressing
Central America	17	20	1.12	3	8.5	-11.5	-6.4	Setback
The Caribbean	27	21	0.78	-6	13.5	-7.5	-3.3	Progressing
South America	14	9	0.67	-5	7	-2.0	-1.9	On-track
NEAR EAST NORTH AFRICA	8	9	1.19	1	4	-5.0	-6.0	Setback
Near East	10	12	1.25	2	5	-7.0	-6.5	Setback
North Africa	4	4	0.91	0	2	-2.0	-5.2	Progressing
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	35	32	0.92	-3	17.5	-14.5	-4.5	Progressing
Central Africa	36	56	1.56	20	18	-38.0	-8.4	Setback
East Africa	45	39	0.87	-6	22.5	-16.5	-4.1	Progressing
Southern Africa	48	39	0.82	-9	24	-15.0	-3.7	Progressing
West Africa, incl Nigeria	21	15	0.73	-6	10.5	-4.5	-2.7	On-track
West Africa, excl Nigeria	29	22	0.76	-7	14.5	-7.5	-3.2	On-track
TRANSITION COUNTRIES (1)	6	6	1.07	0	3	-3.0	-5.2	Setback
CIS	7	7	1.10	0	3.5	-3.5	-5.2	Setback
Baltic States	5	2	0.39	-3	2.5	0.5	1.7	On-track
Eastern Europe	3	3	0.98	0	1.5	-1.5	-5.2	Progressing

(1) The initial period is 1993-95; (2) MDG ratio = (the proportion of undernourished in 2001-03 divided by the number in 1990-92);

(3) Net change = (the proportion of undernourished in 2001-03 minus the proportion in 1990-92);

(4) MDG target = (the proportion of undernourished in 1990-92 divided by 2); (5) Distance to MDG target = (Net change minus MDG target).

